

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The title of the invention stands objected to for being neither precise nor descriptive. A new title is thus required.

Claims 1-2, 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,865,144 to Yanagisawa et al. (hereinafter "Yanagisawa").

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagisawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,894,955 to Shimoda et al. (hereinafter "Shimoda").

Claims 5-11 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the title in accordance with the Examiner's requirement for a new title. Applicants have amended claim 12 and added new claim 14 in order to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of previous dependent claim 5. Accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The dependency of claim 6 has also been amended in light of the cancellation of claim 5. Claim 7 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in that claim. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14 are currently pending with claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14 currently under consideration.

New Title Requirement

The title of the invention stands objected to for being neither precise nor descriptive. A new title is thus required. Applicants have amended the title in accordance with the Examiner's requirement for a new title. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection and the requirement for a new title is respectfully requested.

Statement of the Substance of Examiner Interviews

Examiner Gautam Patel is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative in telephone discussions on June 22 and 26, 2006.

The Examiner indicated in the June 22, 2006 discussion that claim 13 is restrictable from the rest of the claims 1-12 because it is directed to a recording medium. The Examiner suggested canceling this claim from the instant application noting that it could be pursued with a divisional application. The Examiner also noted that in light of art that he is aware of that allegedly reads on independent claims 1 and 12, he would only be prepared to allow this application if the features of either dependent claim 5 or 7 were added to each of independent claims 1 and 12. The Examiner gave no additional information about this art of which he is aware during that telephone conversation.

On June 26, 2006, Applicants' undersigned representative returned the Examiner's call to inform him that Applicants had agreed to cancel claim 13. In addition, Applicants' undersigned representative also informed the Examiner that Applicants had requested to have an Office Communication with regard to the remaining claims in the usual course.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yanagisawa. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagisawa in view of Shimoda.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 5-11, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with this indication, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of previous dependent claim 5. Accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The dependency of claim 6 has also been amended in light of the cancellation of claim 5. Claim 7 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in that claim.

In addition, independent claim 12 has been amended to include features consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a), and the above-mentioned claim objections, have been rendered moot and the remaining independent claims 1, 7 and 12 are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims are in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence on newly-amended independent claims 1 or 7. Withdrawal of these rejections and objections is thus respectfully requested.

In addition, independent claim 14 has been newly-added and also includes features consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that newly-added claim 14 is also in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

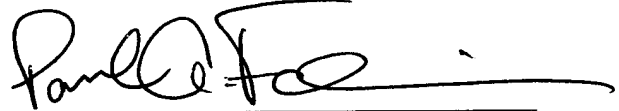
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of these claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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